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ABSTRACT

A study of associate degree programs in the United States was initiated during the 1976-77 academic year to determine the types of associate degrees offered in each state, the state's general education requirements, and the rationale for any differences in requirements that exist among degrees. State officials from a variety of state governance structures were surveyed, and a number of followup contacts were made. Of the 46 states participating in the study, 23 have some type of statewide general requirement for one or more associate degree programs. Three degrees are offered: the Associate of Arts, the Associate of Science, and the Associate of Applied Science. Some states have created a variety of other Associate degrees. In the 23 states having some type of general education requirement, the requirements fall into three structural types: specifically prescribed courses, distribution requirements, and free choice. The future of general education is discussed, and general education requirements are provided by state. Data are also provided on content areas in states with a general education requirement, credit hour requirements by degree, and numbers of associate degrees granted in 1974-75 by type of institution. (SW)

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GENERAL EDUCATION AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES:

A NATIONAL STUDY

by Eugene J. Sullivan and

Penelope West Suritz

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INTRODUCTION

The associate's degree is the most recent addition to our academic degree structure and is the first of several degree levels. The title marks the completion either of the first two years of a baccalaureate program or a two-year technical or occupational program.

The associate's degree originated in this country in 1900 at the University of Chicago. It replaced the title of "certificate" which had been awarded on completion of the first two years in the University's "junior" college. The certificate was replaced by the Associate in Arts, Associate in Literature, and the Associate in Science. Today, virtually all community and junior colleges award the associate's degree, as do many four-year institutions and universities.[1]

Most community and junior colleges also award a certificate on completing programs of less than two years. These programs are generally occupational or technical in nature and usually have no general education requirements.

In 1974-75, approximately 81 percent of all associate degrees were granted by public two-year institutions.[2] The number of degrees granted by each type of institution in 1974-75 is listed in table 1.

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1. Stephen H. Spurr, Academic Degree Instructions: Innovative Approaches (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1970), pp. 41-42.

2. Associate Degrees and Other Formal Awards Below the Baccalaureate, National Center for Educational Statistics (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1977)

Table 1

Associate Degrees Granted, 1974-75

Type of Institution	Number of Degrees
Public two-year colleges	295,298
Private two-year colleges	24,900
Public Four-year universities	8,854
Private four-year universities	2,856
All other four-year public universities	16,018
All other four-year private universities	15,043
Total degrees granted	362,969

Of this total, 98,634 (27 percent) associate degrees were designated as "work not wholly or chiefly creditable toward a bachelor's degree." Of these, 91,240 were awarded by public two-year institutions. California led the states with 68,835 associate's degree, followed by New York with 46,058, and Florida with 26,358. These three states accounted for 39 percent of all associate degrees awarded in 1974-75.

General education is a prescribed course of study which aims, among other things, at providing students with a foundation necessary for understanding self and society and for being able to relate responsibly and intelligently to others. After what many observers have described as a long period of neglect, general education has recently been the subject of growing attention and concern by the higher education

community. Although its scope and definition are usually defined by institutions, some state education agencies have established their own general education requirements.

THE NATIONAL STUDY

During the 1976-77 academic year, we initiated a study of associate degree programs in the United States. The purpose of the study was to determine the types of associate degrees offered in each state, the state's general education requirements, and the rationale for any differences in requirements that exist among degrees. State officials from a variety of state governance structures were surveyed to obtain this information. These state structures included boards of community colleges, boards of higher education, boards of regents, boards of technical schools and departments of education, and boards of university systems. In addition, a number of follow-up contacts were made and college catalogs were reviewed for clarifying and supplemental information. A total of forty-six states participated in the study. Most of the data were collected during the 1976-77 year, but the study was completed in 1978.

Of the forty-six states participating in the study, twenty-three have some type of statewide general education requirement for one or more associate degree programs. Three degrees are offered: the Associate of Arts (A.A.), the Associate of Science (A.S.), and the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.). Some states, however, have created a variety of other associate degrees. A listing of these is contained in Appendix I. These extra degrees run counter to one principle suggested by Spurr for developing a system of degree structures: "The number of different degree titles should be kept as low as

possible, allowing for substantial variation within each as regards subject matter emphasis, quantity, and even quality of effort."[3]

The Associate of Arts Degree

The stated purpose of the A.A. degree is similar among states. It is described as a transfer or university-parallel program at the freshman and sophomore years and is the standard transfer degree. It is a liberal arts degree and, in most cases, excludes occupational courses. In a few states, the Associate of Liberal Arts (A.L.A.) degree serves the same purpose as the A.A. degree. The A.A. degree is sometimes considered a screening device for entry into the baccalaureate program. It is viewed by some as a "mini-B.A.," a logical step along the way to the baccalaureate, and those who interpret the A.A. degree in this way sometimes see it as a prerequisite for the B.A.

The Associate of Science Degree

There is less agreement about the purpose of the A.S. degree. Some states consider it a transfer degree; others consider it a terminal or nontransfer degree. Consistency is also difficult to find, not only among but also within states. In Arkansas, for example, the A.S. degree is not used consistently among institutions. In one institution it is an academic transfer degree; in another, it is awarded to any individual completing the total number of hours required for the

3. Spurr, Academic Degree Structures, p. 26.

degree, with very few courses specified. In still other community colleges within the state, the A.S. is not used at all.

The A.S. is also designed for transfer but usually requires a greater concentration in a specific subject field than does the A.A. degree. Also, the A.S. student takes fewer hours of general education in order to concentrate in his or her major area of interest. Some states require the A.S. student to earn as many as eighteen hours in an occupational curriculum, natural science, or engineering. The A.S. student is expected to begin concentration in a major area even if he or she is in a transfer program. Other states recommend the A.S. for specialized curricula such as business administration or engineering.

The Associate in Applied Science Degree

The A.A.S. degree is regarded as a "terminal" degree for the student who plans to enter the work force immediately upon receipt of the A.A.S. degree. This perception is also contrary to another Spurr principle: "Each degree should mark the successful completion of one stage of academic progress without implication or prejudgment as to students' capacity to embark on following stages."[4] As described below, some states are attempting to deal with this principle by adopting subject title degrees in place of the A.A.S. However, this approach is not compatible with the earlier stated principle of keeping degree titles as few as possible. The degree is awarded at completion of a

4. Ibid.

two-year specified program. Some states are encouraging broader use of the degree, defining it as postsecondary but not always on a college level, designed to produce saleable skills, and "not normally transferable." South Carolina, on the other hand, has decided to eliminate the A.A.S. degree in favor of specific subject degrees because the A.A.S. was "too firmly attached to the concept of terminal degrees. It was considered important not to structure or reinforce a dead-end function or image upon the associate degree. It was intended to remove all psychological and sociological perceptions with which the terms 'occupational' and 'terminal' are synonymous."

West Virginia considers the A.A.S. as the degree of the future, designed to teach new technology. Departments formerly offering an A.A. or A.S. degree are now using the A.A.S. degree. The A.A.S. is uniformly described as career-oriented and is apt to have a large percentage of the required sixty semester hours (or ninety-six quarter hours) specified, with practical knowledge or applied manipulative skills stressed. This degree has many offspring; some schools designate the field: A.S.N. (Associate of Science in Nursing) or A.S.L.E. (Associate of Science in Law Enforcement), for example.

The General Education Component

In the twenty-three states having some type of general education requirement, the requirements fall into three structural types (see table 2): specifically prescribed courses (for example, English composition, U.S. history), distribution requirements (for example, six hours

Table 2

State's General Education Requirements by Structure:
Prescribed, Distribution and Free Choice

State	Degree	Distribution	Prescribed	Free Choice
Alabama	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
Alaska	A.A.	x	x	
	A.A.S.	x	x	
California	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
Florida	A.A.	x		
Georgia	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
Kentucky	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
Maryland	A.A.	x		
Massachusetts	A.A.	x		
	A.S.			x
	A.A.S.			x
	Certificate			x
Nevada	A.A.	x	x	
	A.A.S.	x	x	
	A.G.S.	x	x	
New Hampshire	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
	A.A.S.	x		
New Jersey	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
	A.A.S.	x		
New York	A.A.			x
	A.S.			x
	A.A.S.			x

North Carolina	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
	A.F.A.	x		
Ohio	A.A.	x		
	A.A.B.			x
	A.A.S.			x
Oklahoma	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
Oregon	A.G.S.	x		
	A.A.			x
	A.S.			x
	A.A.S.			x
Pennsylvania	A.A.			x
	A.S.			x
	A.A.A.			x
	A.A.S.			x
Rhode Island	A.A.E.S.S.	x	x	x
	A.S.	x		
	A.A.L.A.	x		
	A.A.S.	x		
South Carolina	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
	A.A.S.	x		
Tennessee	A.A.	x	x	
	A.S.	x	x	
Texas	A.A.		x	
	A.A.S.		x	
Virginia	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
	A.A.S.	x		
Wisconsin	A.A.	x		
	A.S.	x		
	A.A.A.	x		
	A.A.S.	x		

in humanities with twelve to fourteen different courses from which to choose), and free choice. Distribution requirements, permitting freedom of choice within broad curricula areas, should not be confused with free-choice courses, which are selected from all available offerings.

Table 3 shows that most states with either a distribution or prescribed structural type of degree program include the major content areas normally found in a general education curriculum -- English composition, humanities, mathematics, natural sciences, and social sciences. Two other areas frequently designated under general education, history and foreign languages, are not as well represented. History is included by thirteen states; foreign languages by nine states. Texas, the only state with solely a prescribed type of structure, interestingly, has only a history and government requirement. Only three states require a foreign language -- South Carolina, Rhode Island (A.A. and A.S.), and Tennessee (A.A.). Foreign language is optional in seven states -- New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon (A.G.S.), Oklahoma, Kentucky, and Rhode Island (A.A. in Education and Social Services).

The findings on foreign language requirements are consistent with those of Blackburn and associates in a report for the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies.[5] Blackburn researched the catalogs of various types of public and private institutions in examining the changing nature of undergraduate curricula. The study included thirty-eight public

5. Robert Blackburn et. al., Changing Practices in Undergraduate Education (Berkeley: Carnegie Council on Policy Studies for Higher Education, 1976).

community colleges in eighteen states and examined only the requirements of the A.A. degree. Only six institutions required a foreign language in 1967 and only three in 1974.

Only four states have an arts requirement: North Carolina (A.A., A.S., A.F.A.), South Carolina (A.A., A.S.), Rhode Island (A.A.), and Alabama (A.A.). Eight states have an arts option: New Hampshire, Rhode Island (A.A. in Educational and Social Services), Oregon (A.G.S.), Nevada (A.A.), Oklahoma (A.A., A.S.), Massachusetts (A.A.), Kentucky (A.A.), and Alabama (A.A.).

States with a physical education requirement are: North Carolina, Virginia, Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida. Three states, South Carolina, Oklahoma, and Ohio specifically exclude physical education as meeting the general education requirement.

Number of Required Credit Hours

Table 4 shows the general education credit hour requirements by degree in twenty-two states.

The mean credit hour requirement for those states under a quarter system is A.A., 53.7 hours; A.S., 48.1; A.A.S., 22.0; and other, 32.5.

For states under a semester system the mean credit hour requirement is A.A., 28.0 hours; A.S., 26.6; A.A.S., 20.4; and other, 22.4. For information on the average number or range of general education requirements at institutions in the following states which do not have state requirements, see table 5.

Table 3

Content Areas Included in States with a Prescribed or Distribution General Education Requirement

State	Degree	English Composition	Humanities	Mathematics	Natural Science	Social Science	History	Foreign Language
Alabama	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	A.S.	x	x	x	x	x		
Alaska	A.A.	x	x		x	x		
	A.A.A.	x	x		x	x		
California	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		
	A.S.	x	x	x	x	x		
Florida	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		
Georgia	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		
	A.S.	x	x	x	x	x		
Kentucky	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	A.S.			x	x			
Maryland	A.A.		x	x	x	x		
Massachusetts	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		
Nevada	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x	x	
	A.A.S.	x		x	x	x	x	
	A.G.S.	x	x	x	x	x	x	
New Hampshire	A.D.	x	x	x	x	x		x
	A.A.S.	x	x	x	x	x		x
	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		x
New Jersey	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		
	A.S.	x	x	x	x	x		
	A.A.S.	x	x	x	x	x		
North Carolina	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		
	A.S.	x	x	x	x	x		
	A.F.A.	x	x	x	x	x		

Ohio	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		
Oklahoma	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	A.S.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Oregon	A.G.S.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Rhode Island	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		x
	A.S.	x	x	x	x			x
	A.A.E.S.S.	x	x	x	x	x		x
South Carolina	A.A.	x	x	x	x	x		
	A.S.	x	x	x	x	x		
	A.A.S.	x				x		
Tennessee	A.A.	x	x	x	x		x	
	A.S.	x	x	x	x		x	
Texas	A.A.						x	
	A.A.S.						x	
	Other						x	
Virginia	A.A.	x	x		x	x	x	
	A.S.	x	x			x	x	
	A.A.S.	x				x		
Wisconsin	A.A.	x				x		
	A.S.	x				x		
	A.A.A.	x				x		
	A.A.S.	x				x		

Table 4

State-Level General Education Credit Hour Requirements by Degree

State	Degree	Hours
Alabama	A.A.	69*
	A.S.	43*
Alaska	A.A.	27
	A.A.S.	27
California	A.A.	15
	A.S.	15
Florida	A.A.	36
Georgia	A.A.	60*
	A.S.	60*
Kentucky	A.A.	16-26
	A.S.	10-20
Maryland	A.A.	15
Massachusetts	A.A.	33
Nevada	A.A.	38
	A.A.S.	21
	A.G.S.	19
New Hampshire	A.A.	36
	A.S.	24
	A.A.S.	21
New Jersey	A.A.	45
	A.S.	30
	A.A.S.	20
New York	A.A.	45
	A.S.	30
	A.A.S.	20
North Carolina	A.A.	53-70*
	A.S.	69-75*
	A.F.S.	39-43*

*Quarter hours; unless so indicated, all others are semester hours.

State-Level General Education Credit Hour Requirements by Degree (cont.)

State	Degree	Hours
Ohio	A.A.	54*
	A.A.S.	24*
	A.A.B.	24*
Oklahoma	A.A.	33
	A.S.	33
Oregon	A.A.	18*
	A.S.	18*
	A.A.S.	18*
	A.G.S.	24*
Rhode Island	A.A.L.A.	30
	A.A.E.S.S.	35
	A.S.	15-48
	A.A.S.	13-35
South Carolina	A.A.	58*
	A.S.	58*
	A.A.S.	24*
Tennessee	A.A.	45*
	A.S.	45*
Texas	A.A.	12
	A.A.S.	12
	Other	12
Virginia	A.A.	52-58*
	A.S.	28-37*
	A.A.S.	22*
Wisconsin	A.A.	15
	A.S.	15
	A.A.A.	15
	A.A.S.	15

*Quarter hours; unless so indicated, all others are semester hours.

Table 5

Average Number of Credit Hours for General Education in States without General Education Requirements

State	Degree	Hours
Arizona	A.A.	24-33
	A.S.	24-30
	A.A.S.	12-24
Hawaii	A.A.	24-26
	A.S.	9-24
Idaho	A.A.	32-36
	A.L.A.	32-42
	A.S.	29*
Illinois	A.A.	20-53
	A.S.	22-65
Iowa	A.A.	90-96*
	A.S.	90-96*
	A.G.S.	
Kansas	A.A.	17-51
	A.S.	21-52
	A.A.S.	11-17
Michigan	A.A.	32
	A.S.	
Utah	A.A.	45-55*
	A.S.	
	A.A.S.	24*
Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin System	See Appendix 2

*Quarter hours; unless so indicated, all others are semester hours.

Inconsistent Degree Designations

Illinois has finished a draft of a "baccalaureate articulation compact" with institutions as an alternative to a state imposed general education requirement. The Illinois agreement will require a minimum of at least thirty-six semester hours for both the A.A. and A.S. in four major areas: (1) English or communication, (2) humanities, (3) mathematics or natural sciences, and (4) social sciences. An agreement developed by Washington's "Inter College Articulation Commission," which applies only to the A.A., calls for a minimum of fifty quarter hours in general education distributed among the following areas: (1) communication skills, (2) humanities, (3) natural sciences, and (4) social sciences.

Pennsylvania imposes a general education requirement on private institutions as well. Associate degree programs must contain a minimum of sixty semester hours, of which at least twenty must be in general education. The state does not specify courses or a distribution pattern for the general education requirement for either public or private institutions.

The inconsistency of degree designations, particularly with the A.S. degree, has been noted. It is also true for degrees other than the A.A., A.S., or A.A.S. In Iowa, the Associate of General Studies is designed for students combining work in one or more career programs with college parallel courses or for students combining developmental or remedial courses with college parallel courses. In Arkansas, the

Associate in General Education is described as a "catch-all degree" awarded to any student completing the required number of hours at the institution.

In states with a state-level general education requirement (for the A.A., A.S., or A.A.S.), these other degree designations are frequently patterned to meet the more general interests of the students. These other degree designations do not have a specified general education requirement. Perhaps the assumption is that these students will most likely take a number of general education courses anyway as they select from different offerings. However, a student could conceivably limit courses to one or two areas, taking none from other areas required for other degree programs.

As noted earlier, some state systems use the A.S. with a particular field (e.g., A.S. in Nursing, A.S. in Law Enforcement). Some systems however, reported that they plan to drop this practice and use the A.A.S. degree instead. Other states simply link the associate designation with the area of specialization. One recommendation of the American Council on Education Task Force on Educational Credit and Credentials calls for this type of usage for occupationally and professionally oriented programs.[6] In Virginia, each A.A.S. degree program includes majors, some of which are further divided into appropriate specializations. For example, there is an A.A.S. degree

6. See "Recommendations on Credentialing Educational Accomplishment" (Washington: American Council on Education, 1978), p. 13; see also Credentialing Educational Accomplishment (Washington: American Council on Education, 1978).

program with a major in commerical art and a specialization in interior design.

Responses from each state participating in the study are reported in appendix 3. Except for occasional minor editing, they are in their original form.

Some final and closely related observations may be made about the results of the study. The definition of general education by states which have a requirement is simply some type of reference to courses in the curriculum. Some courses are prescribed, others are to be chosen from several broad areas of knowledge, and still others are to be chosen from the institution's total offerings. A fundamental absence in the data is the whole question of the meaning and purpose of general education. Few of the states which have a general education requirement clearly articulated the objectives or purposes of the requirement or based it on any educational philosophy.[7] In addition, most institutional catalogs examined by the authors, except for a few which had some very brief and general statements, were as equally undefined.

7. A comprehensive and lucid discussion of general education and course content guidelines may be found in a report of a North Carolina interinstitutional committee "Guidelines for Transfer," North Carolina Association of Colleges and Universities, The University of North Carolina, 1977.

THE FUTURE OF GENERAL EDUCATION

General education in the past few years has received the serious attention of many in higher education. Harvard's recently adopted "core curriculum" plan is the most notable example of this growing scrutiny. Many other institutions are concerned with the lack of coherence in undergraduate education and increasingly uncomfortable with the highly individualized character of the curriculum. There is a consensus that general education has been badly neglected and is in need of thoughtful reappraisal. The erosion of general education is underscored in a study by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

"General education is now a disaster area. It has been on the defensive and losing ground for more than 100 years. It represents the accretions of history more than a thoughtful concern for specialized current needs."[8]

Whether this increased focus of attention on the problems of general education will result in any substantive reform or revitalization is uncertain, of course, at this time. What is certain is that if the response by higher education is merely a mechanical-like, bureaucratic concentration on distribution or core curriculum requirements, then general education will continue to be a "disaster area." For as Hook points out, "the real question that must be grappled with

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8. Missions of the College Curriculum (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1977), p. 11.

is what a liberal general education should consist of, not whether it should be part of the prescribed curriculum of higher education."[9] Other questions that must also be seriously addressed are how content is determined and by whom. The Carnegie Foundation has argued that the content of general education has not been shaped by a coherent general education philosophy but by a number of external and internal forces -- faculty interests, student concerns with the job market, government regulations, the courts, accrediting agencies, 'relevance,' social fads and the like. "We believe that the curriculum of the future should be less the result of pressures and more the consequences of sustained thought and that higher education should demonstrate that it can think about what is needed as well as respond to what is demanded."[10]

Some observers are not sanguine about the future of general education in our institutions. Mortimer Adler talks about the disappearance of the broadly educated generalist and gloomily notes:

> During the last few years, my concern about the state of higher learning in America has reached the panic stage, and my hopes for the reform of the American college and university have dwindled to the verge of despair.[11]

Another concerned observer, Alston Chase, commenting on the likely influence of the recent Harvard general education report states:

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9. Sidney Hook in The Philosophy of the Curriculum: The Need for General Education, ed. Sidney Hook, Paul Kurtz, and Miro Todorovich (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1975), p. xii.

10. Missions of the College Curriculum, p. 18.

11. Mortimer J. Adler, "The Disappearance of Culture," Newsweek, August 2, 1978, p. 15.

> Surely we will find, over the next few years, a great deal of momentum in the direction of higher education, more blue ribbon academic, governmental, and foundation committees, more curricular reviews, more highly publicized wars on illiteracy, and pious posturing about the 'educated man'; but where will it lead? Will we, ten years from now, look back on the coming decade as just another period of great hope and little achievement in American higher education?
>
> I think we are in great danger of letting this happen.[12]

Another issue that emerges from this study is whether the state has an appropriate role regarding general education. It has been argued that the student clientele in postsecondary colleges and universities is too heterogeneous to permit common general education programs.[13] Certainly student bodies are highly diverse in community colleges in any state. Also, if general education is that part of the undergraduate curriculum that allows an institution to make a unique contribution to the education of its students, should it alone have the responsibility for its design?

On the other hand, if it is possible and desirable to establish a standard general education curriculum, is it not important for a state to assure that it is provided to students, thereby enhancing the prospects of developing an intelligent, active, and responsible citizenry? Hook argues that this function of educating the citizenry is the chief justification for the community's undertaking the immense costs of universal access to higher education and not that it will increase earning power or social status or enjoyment.[14]

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12. Alston Chase, "Skipping Through College," Atlantic Monthly, September 1948, p. 35.

13. Arthur Levine, Handbook on Undergraduate Curriculum (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1978) p. 23.

14. Hook, The Philosophy of the Curriculum, p. 29.

Of lesser importance but still significant is the likelihood that a state general education requirement may also be a useful means for eliminating or at least minimizing transfer problems.

A third approach would be for the state and the institutions to jointly develop guidelines or agreements on a general education curriculum, as some states have done.

Another issue is the scope of the general education requirement, however determined. Should it apply to all student, only those in degree programs, only those in "transfer curricula?" Is a variable requirement educationally sound or consistent with the very essence of the concept of general education? Neither the states which have different general education requirements for their associate degrees nor the catalogs which were reviewed from these states offered a rationale for this variability. It raises the question of the level of commitment to the concept and, at least, manifests the absence of a coherent definition of general education.

It may be premature to expect these issues and questions and recent curriculum trends to be reflected in either institutional or state requirements at this time. However, it should be a question of <u>when</u> and <u>how</u> they are reflected and not <u>whether</u>.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, BY STATE

Alabama

The junior and community colleges in Alabama offer three associate degree programs, the Associate in Arts, the Associate in Science, and the Associate in Applied Science. The Associate in Arts degree is strictly a transfer or university parallel program; the Associate in Science degree is more specialized in subjects on the freshman and sophomore level; and the Associate in Applied Science degree is considered a terminal career program.

General education requirements for the associate in arts and the associate in science degrees are as follows.

Associate in Arts	Quarter Hours
Division of Communications	
English (freshman composition)	10
Literature (American or English)	10
Division of social studies	
History (American or history of western civilization)	10
Other Social Sciences (economics, geography, psychology, political science, sociology)	10
Division of science and mathematics	
Science and/or mathematics (biology, chemistry, physics, physical science, mathematics)	20
Division of fine arts	
Art, music, or speech	6
Division of health and physical education	
Health and physical education	3
Total general education credits	69

Additional Credits	27
	96

The additional twenty-seven credits may include courses in English, history, science, mathematics, foreign languages, speech or other approved courses. In addition to the general education program, the student must complete the appropriate university parallel program.

Associate in Science	Quarter Hours
Division of language arts	
English (freshman composition)	10
Literature (American or English, journalism, creative writing, literature of the Bible, classical literature, world literature)	5
Division of social sciences	
General social sciences (history, geography, psychology, political science, sociology)	10
Division of science and mathematics	
Science and/or mathematics (biology, chemistry, physics, physical science, mathematics)	15
Division of health and physical education	
Health and physical education	3
Total general education credits	43
Additional applied credits	53
	96

The additional required fifty-three quarter hours of credit must be in the field of concentration or related fields. In addition to the general education program, the student must complete a specific university parallel program.

Associate in Applied Science

This degree is awarded to the student who successfully completes the requirements for a specific occupation as outlined in the institution's catalogue. Although there is no state imposed general education requirement for this degree, a review of college catalogues reveals that some general education courses are required in these programs.

Alaska

The University of Alaska offers the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Applied Arts degrees. The minimum number of credits that must be earned for most programs is sixty semester hours. One program, police administration, requires sixty-five semester hours.

The general education requirements for both degrees are as follows:

Associate in Arts and Associate in Applied Arts	Semester Hours
Written communication	6
Oral communication	3
Humanities	6
Social sciences	6
Natural science	6

Arizona

The State Board is responsible for establishing the curriculum, but each college is autonomous in determining its graduation requirements. Because of this autonomy, only ranges of requirements can be cited, drawn from a review of college catalogues.

Associate in Arts	Semester Hours
Communications (English composition, written communications)	6
Humanities (art, introduction to art, western art, philosophy, music theory, world literature)	5-12
Social science (anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology)	6-12
Science and mathematics (mathematics, algebra, biological sciences, physical sciences, geology, chemistry, earth science)	7-9

The choice of courses in the required divisions varies from college to college. Availability of courses may be limited.

Associate in Science	Semester Hours
Communications (English composition)	6
Humanities (art, literature, music, philosophy, theater)	6-9
Social science (anthropology, economics, history, political science, psychology, sociology, social science)	6-9

Science and mathematics (astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics)	6-12

A total of twenty-four to twenty-eight credit hours in general education is required. Availability varies by college; in the social sciences, one school had more than twenty-two course offerings, from Indians of Arizona and Mexican American Studies to Personality and Social Adjustment.

Associate of Applied Science	Semester Hours
English (composition or technical writing)	3-6
Humanities	3-6
Social and behavioral sciences	3-6
Science and mathematics	3-6

Arkansas

According to the Department of Higher Education, specific requirements for each degree vary at each institution, as Arkansas schools are basically locally controlled. Administrators "acknowledge some inconsistencies." The Associate of Arts degree is used as the standard transfer degree and, usually, more than half the content is specified as general education. The Associate in Science is also varied. In some cases, it is an academic transfer degree similar to the Associate in Arts degree except that it tracks a student toward a Bachelor of Science degree. At other institutions, the Associate in Science is used as a "catch-all" degree and is awarded with very few courses specified, to any individual completing the total number of hours required for the degree.

The Associate in Applied Science is occupational. The Associate in General Education is "clearly and simply a catch-all degree" awarded to anyone who completes the required number of hours at the institution. There is almost unanimous agreement among the community colleges that a degree should be awarded to anyone completing a two-year program structured by a counselor in conjunction with the student to fit his or her individual needs. Institutions that award the Associate in Science in this manner will probably move toward the Associate in General Education.

California

For the Associate in Arts degree, the state Community College System requires successful completion of sixty to sixty-four semester hours in a curriculum approved by the local district, including fifteen semester units in general education which shall include at least one course in each of the following areas:

1. Natural sciences. Those courses of study which deal with matter and energy and their interrelations and transformations (for example, chemistry, physics, biology).

2. Social sciences. The body of knowledge that relates to man as a member of society or component of society, such as the state, family, or any systematized human institution (for example, economics, political science, sociology).

3. Humanities. Those courses of study having primarily a cultural character (for example, languages, literature philosophy, fine arts).

4. Learning skills. Courses, such as oral and written communication, logic, mathematics, and statistics, designed to facilitate acquisition and utilization of knowledge in natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities.

Students taking these courses may elect to use them to satisfy partially the general education requirements for a baccalaureate degree

at the California State Colleges.

For the Associate in Science Degree, the state requires satisfactory completion of sixty semester hours, all requirements for the associate in arts degree, and a major of at least eighteen semester hours in the fields of engineering, physical and biological sciences, or occupational curriculums.

Colorado

There are no statewide criteria for awarding different degrees. The number of required credits varies by field. For example, an Associate of Applied Science in Accounting requires 96 quarter hours; in mid-management the degree is awarded after 99 quarter hours; and 102 quarter hours are required for electronics technology at one college. The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education authorizes the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, Associate in Commerce, and the Associate Degree.

Institutions are encouraged to be flexible in their academic programs. Variations in the general education requirements are seen as one way of providing this flexibility. "It is felt that the more flexibility that can be attained, the more economical will be the entire operation for the state."

Connecticut

For state technical schools, governed by the Board of Trustees of State Technical Colleges, Associate of Science degree programs require approximately 120 quarter hours based, whenever possible, on guidelines developed by the Engineering Council for Professional Development (ECPD). Where this is not possible, a curriculum is developed with recommendations of a technical advisory committee. ECPD criteria for associate degree engineering technology programs found in technical schools, junior or community colleges, and other institutions are as follows:

1. At least the equivalent of one-half academic year of basic sciences, about half of which is mathematics and of which the mathematics includes carefully selected topics suited to each curriculum from appropriate areas of college algebra and trigonometry, and going beyond to include basic concepts of calculus.

2. At least the equivalent of one academic year of technical courses.

3. At least the equivalent of one-fourth academic year of non-technical subjects such as oral and written communications and humanistic-social science subjects, exclusive of courses in physical education or ROTC.

4. The specifications listed above must total less than the minimum period of two academic years required to achieve an integrated and well-rounded engineering technology curriculum.

This additional time is available for the implementation of the educational objectives of the individual and the institution.

5. A minimum of sixty semester hour credits for a two-year associate degree curriculum.

The state's twelve community colleges offer the Associate in Arts degree. The number of semester credit hours required ranges from sixty-two to sixty-six credits. There are no state general education or other requirements for the degree.

Delaware

Institutions in Delaware offer the following associate degree programs: Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, and the Associate in Applied Science. The latter degree is offered at only one institution -- Delaware Technical and Community College. The A.A. degree is awarded following the completion of two years of college in liberal arts. The A.S. degree is awarded for completion of two-year curriculum in fields other than liberal arts (that is, education, science). The A.A.S. degree is granted for the completion of a two-year curriculum in a number of technological areas. There is no statewide general education requirement.

Florida

The Associate of Arts degree is the basic transfer degree requiring the completion of sixty semester hours of academic work exclusive of occupational courses and basic required physical education courses. Part of the sixty semester hours must include an approved general education program of not fewer than thirty-six semester hours. The state Department of Education describes the basic general education for those students working toward a baccalaureate degree as follows: "General education programs provide basic liberal education and include work in areas such as -- communications, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and the natural sciences." It also asserts, however, that the general education requirement shall be the sole responsibility of the institution awarding the degree. Each institution has the responsibility for determining the character of its own program. There is not a similar standardization of minimum requirements for either the Associate of Science or the Associate of Applied Science degrees.

Georgia

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia requires a core curriculum for all public degree granting institutions, including two-year institutions offering the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science degrees. The core curriculum provides for sixty quarter hours of general education as follows:

Associate in Arts, Associate in Science	Quarter Hours
Humanities (including but not limited to grammar and composition and literature)	20
Mathematics and the natural sciences (including but not limited to mathematics and a ten-hour sequence of laboratory courses in the biological or physical sciences)	20
Social sciences (including but not limited to history and American government)	20

Each institution develops specific courses and hours under these general guidelines.

Hawaii

Within the University of Hawaii Community College System, two associate-level degrees are offered: the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science. The former is awarded after two years of course work, predominantly in liberal arts. The latter is for occupational training, but does require some course work in general education. There are seven colleges in the system with varied requirements that are the "result of slightly differing educational philosophy, community need, and organizational structure." The state is currently in the process of working toward greater standardization. The schools are Hawaii, Honolulu, Kapiolani, Kauai, Leeward, Maui, and Wendward Community Colleges.

Associate in Arts	Semester Hours
Communications and language arts (Hawaii has no such requirement)	3-6
History (only Kapiolani requires history)	6
Humanities	6-15
Social sciences	6-12
Natural science and mathematics	6-12
Mathematics (3 hours required in 4 schools, no specific mathematics requirement in the other 3)	3
Total of general education credits (called area requirements)	24-46
Associate in Science	
Communications	3-6

Humanities	2-6
Social science	2-6
Natural science and mathematics	2-6
Electives	3-15
Total general education requirements	9-24

The requirement in general education is twenty-four semester hours for both the Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science at one college.

Idaho

A variety of associate-level degrees are offered at both two-year and four-year institutions. However, there is no statewide requirement. A review of catalogs provided by the Department of Education indicates the following requirements in general education:

Associate in Arts	Semester Hours
English composition	6
Fundamentals of speech	2
Personal and public health	2
Social sciences	6
Mathematics, sciences	8
Humanities	4-8
Physical education	4
Total general education credits	32-36
Associate in Liberal Arts	
English composition	6
Fundamentals of speech	3
Social sciences	6-12
Natural sciences, mathematics	8-11
Humanities, fine arts	6
Physical education	4
Total general education credits	32-42

Associate in Science	Semester Hours
English composition	6
Social sciences	6
Mathematics, natural sciences	12
Humanities	3
Physical education	2
Total general education credits	29

The above figures represent a composite of requirements that are institutionally determined.

Illinois

Schools in the state offer the Associate in Science and the Associate in Arts degrees. State policies of the Community College Board concerning curriculum development require that organized curricula in degree programs include general education courses to contribute to the liberal education of the student. However, the number and content of those courses may vary according to the curriculum in which the student is enrolled. A further ruling restricts independent study, a program designed for students with unusual interests or abilities, to no more than four semester hours.

An Associate in Liberal Studies is also offered. This degree is not primarily baccalaureate-oriented, and it covers the general studies, liberal studies, general education, or continuing education requirements of certain individuals. This degree may include any associate-level courses in the area of baccalaureate-oriented, occupational, or general studies. Remedial or developmental courses may not be included. This degree is not designed for transfer, although it may be accepted wholly or in part at the discretion of the senior college.

Although there are no state-imposed general education requirements, the Community College Board has developed a baccalaureate articulation compact. The proposed compact would require a minimum of at least thirty-six semester hours in four major areas: English

or communications, humanities, mathematics or natural sciences, and social sciences.

A review of general education requirements of thirty-seven community colleges in Illinois pointed up a wide range of requirements as follows.

Associate in Arts	Semester hours
Communications	6-16
Humanities	2-18
Natural science and mathematics	5-18
Social science	3-18
Physical education, health	0-7
Total	20-53

Several schools reported only a number of required hours to be drawn from different fields with no specific number required from any one subject. The total was equally distributed among those fields for purposes of determining the spread of requirements. The lowest requirement, twenty hours, was from a school with no physical education requirement, and only two to three hours in the humanities. The highest total requirement, fifty-three hours, demanded twenty-four hours in the humanities and seven in physical education. The mean requirement was thirty-six to thirty-nine hours, with the

largest component being eight to ten semester hours in Natural Science and Mathematics. The lowest requirement in that area was five hours, the highest was eighteen, both from the same school.

Associate in Science	Semester hours
Communications	3-11
Humanities	2-18
Natural science and mathematics	3-43
Social science	3-18
Physical education and health	0-6
Total	22-65

Again, many schools reported a range, others only a total of general education requirements to be distributed in the above areas. The school requiring twenty-two semester hours expected six hours each in communications and natural science and mathematics, and three each in humanities and social sciences; no physical education was required and no indication of the specific requirement for the remaining four semester hours. The highest total, sixty-five was reported as a range of thirty-four to sixty-five. That school required up to forty-three hours in the natural sciences and mathematics. The mean of the total hours required for the Associate of Science is thirty-eight to forty hours with the largest component being the twelve to fourteen hours mean in the natural sciences and mathematics.

Indiana

There is no standard definition of the degrees, and colleges are at liberty to define the degrees as they so choose. There are no plans to seek uniformity in the application of degree titles. The Commission for Higher Education is involved in the approval process for programs at all levels but makes no judgment about the particular title used at each level with the exception of the doctoral level. State schools offer the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and the Associate of Applied Science degrees.

Iowa

According to the Department of Public Instruction, the institutions establish the specific requirements for each degree, diploma, and certificate it awards. A range of ninety to ninety-six quarter hours is required in the areas of communications, math and science, social science for the Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, and Associate in General Studies degrees. A few institutions include physical education and such other requirements as orientation and the use of learning resource center.

The Associate of Applied Arts is for students completing an approved preparatory career program in applied arts. The Associate of Applied Science is for students completing an approved preparatory career program preparing individuals for employment in a technical occupation and other occupations for which the Associate of Applied Arts degree is not awarded. The Associate of General Studies is for students combining work taken in one or more preparatory career programs with college parallel courses or students combining work in developmental and remedial courses with college parallel courses.

Kansas

According to the Department of Education, local community college boards determine degree requirements. Two institutions offer an Associate degree with no emphasis on arts and sciences and no specific requirements cited other than completion of sixty-two to sixty-four semester hours and a 2.0 grade point average. For the other institutions, the requirements range as follows.

Associate of Arts	Semester Hours	
Communications	3-9	
Humanities/fine arts	2-12	A minimum of sixty hours is required at the sixteen colleges offering this degree.
Science/mathematics	5-12	
Physical education/health	2-6	
Social sciences	5-12	

Associate of Sciences		
Communications	5-9	
Humanities/fine arts	2-8	A minimum of sixty hours at the seven colleges offering this degree.
Science/mathematics	9-20	
Health/physical education	2-5	
Social Sciences	3-10	

Associate of Applied Science

Communications	3-8	
Humanities, fine arts	3	A minimum of sixty hours at the eleven colleges offering this degree.
Social or natural sciences	3-6	
Health/physical education	2-3	

Associate of General Studies

Successful completion of sixty hours with a grade point average of 2.0.

Kentucky

For the Associate in Arts degree, the University of Kentucky Community College System requires satisfactory completion of a minimum of sixty semester hours of university parallel work, demonstrated competence in English composition, and completion of a sequence of two courses in at least three of the following areas of general studies: Mathematics-philosophy; physical science; biological science; humanities (literature, art and, music); history; social and behavorial sciences; foreign languages.

Competency in English may be demonstrated by either successfully completing two courses in composition or by bypassing one course with a satisfactory score on the English section of the ACT. A student may satisfy the general studies requirement in foreign language by passing the fourth semester course in a foreign language or by demonstrating equivalent competence by examination. For those students who exclude the foreign language area and select three other areas, the range of credit for general studies is sixteen to twenty-six semester hours.

Students completing sequences in two areas (mathematics-philosophy, physical science, or biological science) may be awarded the associate in science degree. The range of credit for these students is ten to twenty semester hours.

Students who are pursuing an Associate in Applied Science degree may satisfy the English composition requirement by satisfactorily

completing two compositions for technical students courses regardless of their ACT score. Completion of these courses is not considered a general education requirement for the A.A.S. A review of A.A.S. programs revealed a range of nine to twelve semester hours in general education.

Louisiana

Delgado Community College, governed by the Department of Education, is the only comprehensive two-year institution in the state. It offers the Associate in Arts, the Associate in Science, the Associate in Applied Science, and the Associate in Business Studies. Required semester hours range from sixty-four to eighty-two depending on the degree program. No state educational requirements exist for the various associate degrees. Some four-year institutions also grant the associate degree.

Maine

Institutions offer the Associate of Science, Associate in Applied Science, Associate in Arts in General Studies, Associate in Business Science, Associate Degree, and Associate in Arts. Many institutions refer to "the associate degree in _____," naming the area of concentration as the degree title.

The Department of Educational and Cultural Services reports that there are no established standards used by the state for general education requirements, as requirements vary from institution to institution, as do the types of degrees offered.

Maryland

Only the Associate in Arts is offered by the state's community colleges, and there are no plans to add other degrees. The State Board of Education's minimum general education requirement is fifteen semester hours evenly distributed among the humanities, natural sciences and mathematics, and the social sciences. Courses in these areas that are directly supportive of a student's major concentration may not be applied toward the general education requirement. Physical education is "considered an appropriate part of any degree program," but is not actually required.

An occupational program must include the requisite fifteen hours in general education and no less than twenty-four semester hours in courses designated for that occupation.

To receive the associate degree, a student must complete no fewer than sixty nor more than seventy semester hours of credit (exclusive of basic physical education and orientation to college).

The University of Maryland offers also the A.A. degree, and it requires thirty semester hours of general education as follows:

Associate of Arts	Semester Hours
Communications (English -- Introduction to Writing, additional three hours of composition, writing or applied speech).	6
Humanities (to include courses in at least two of the following areas: fine arts, history, literature, philosophy).	9

Social Sciences (to include courses in at least two of the following areas: anthropology, economics, geography, government and politics, psychology, sociology).	9
Mathematics and/or Science (may include biological science, computer science, physical science or any college level mathematics course including business mathematics).	6

As with the state's community colleges, the University of Maryland's A.A. degree also requires satisfactory completion of 60 semester hours.

Massachusetts

The Associate in Arts is granted to students completing an institutionally designed and State Board of Regional Community Colleges approved program of collegiate-level courses, of which at least thirty-three semester hours are drawn from liberal arts and sciences. The Associate in Science degree requires that at least twenty hours are from the field of general education outside the area of specialization. The Associate in Applied Science requires a minimum of sixteen hours in general education with emphasis on a practicum and specialized course work. In addition, the Board requires six semester hours of general education in certificate programs. The only degree for which the board outlines the pattern of general education requirements is the Associate in Arts degree. That pattern is as follows: six hours of English/communications; nine hours of behavior/social science; nine hours of humanities/fine arts; nine hours of mathematics/sciences.

Michigan

According to the Board of Education, no state-level general education requirements exist. Each of the twenty-nine public community and junior colleges and the several independent colleges sets its own criteria for degree programs. These requirements generally conform to a total of sixty to sixty-two semester credit hours or two years full-time college work.

Degree titles may typically be Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science, and Associate in Technology. Most colleges have associate degree programs that include six semester hours of English, eight semester hours of laboratory science, nine semester hours in social science (including one course required by state statute), and nine semester hours in the humanities. These requirements in general education may be less for degree programs in applied science or business technologies.

In 1976, the state board of education authorized the granting of an Associate Degree in Technical Studies, giving private vocational schools with full-time programs of eighteen months or more the right to grant the degree.

Minnesota

There are no state general education requirements for any of the associate degree programs offered in the Minnesota Community College System. The degrees offered are the Associate of Arts (A.A.), the Associate of Science (A.S.), the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), and the Associate Degree (A.D.).

Mississippi

By statute, local boards of trustees rather than the Department of Education, are empowered to issue degrees and determine requirements. Basically, the Associate of Arts degree comprises sixty semester hours in academic subjects, with two or four nonacademic subjects required for completion. The Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science, and other degrees include about twenty-five hours in general education subjects and forty hours in technical education.

Missouri

Essentially, the requirements for associate degrees are determined by the colleges. The Department of Higher Education believes it is incumbent on the institutions to have policies and procedures acceptable to the regional accrediting association. It is understood that sixty to sixty-four semester hours is a minimal requirement.

The degrees offered in the Missouri junior colleges are the Associate in Arts, the Associate in Science, and the Associate in Applied Science. The A.A. and A.S. degree designations are those that are oriented toward transfer to upper division completion of arts and sciences baccalaureate programs. Those degrees have no designated subject specialization. The A.A.S. degree is designed around an area of technical subject specialization and is viewed as terminal, except as it may be oriented toward transfer to a technological baccalaureate program.

Montana

In the Montana University System each institution determines its own degree requirements. The following associate degree titles are offered in the state: Associate of Arts, Associate in Applied Science, Associate of Science, Associate in Technology, and Associate in Nursing. General education and other degree requirements vary from institution to institution.

Nevada

According to the Community College Division of the University of Nevada System, community colleges award three associate degrees: the Associate in Applied Sciences, the Associate in Arts, and the Associate in General Studies. The Associate in Applied Sciences is conferred on those students who have successfully completed a two-year course of study in an occupational career field. The Associate in Arts degree is primarily for the student who plans to transfer in junior-year standing to a four-year college for a baccalaureate degree in one of the liberal arts or sciences. The Associate in General Studies degree is awarded to those students primarily interested in general education with no specific occupational goals in mind or any preprofessional preparation.

Degree requirements are as follows:

Associate in Arts	Semester Hours
English	6
U.S. and Nevada Constitutions	3
Science and mathematics	8
Social sciences	12
Fine arts, humanities	9
Total	38

A maximum of sixty-four hours will be accepted for transfer into the University of Nevada, Reno, or Las Vegas. Subject areas are required but choice exists. For example, of the eight hours required in

science and mathematics, courses in twenty or more subjects, such as geology, environment, or biology may be available.

Associate in Applied Sciences	Semester Hours
English/communications	6
U.S. and Nevada constitutions or American constitutional government	3
Social sciences	6
Science and mathematics	6
Total	21

Associate in General Studies	
English/communications	6
U.S. and Nevada Constitutions	3
Science and mathematics	4
Social sciences	3
Humanities	3
Total	19

New Hampshire

The State of New Hampshire Department of Education reports that a Joint Management Committee has been established by the State Board of Education and the University of New Hampshire Board of Trustees to serve as a liaison between these two groups relative to the coordination of two-year and less public postsecondary educational offerings and institutions. The following degree definitions were adopted by the committee for use during the 1976-77 academic year on a trial basis:

Associate Degree

A degree commonly conferred on the successful completion of a two-year program of studies of a junior college or technical institute.

Associate in Applied Science Degree

A degree commonly conferred on the successful completion of a two-year postsecondary program of studies composed of a general education, electives, and a major concentration in a chosen technical, semiprofessional, or professional area of study.

Associate in Arts Degree

A degree commonly conferred on the successful completion of a two-year postsecondary program of studies composed essentially of courses in the liberal arts. Optional sixteen to twenty-four credit hours (semester).

Associate in Science Degree

A degree commonly conferred on the successful completion of a two-year postsecondary program of studies composed of courses in the liberal arts and sciences.

Criteria established by the state's postsecondary education commission for evaluating institutions offering the associate degree requires a program of general education. In addition, an institution must offer one or more curricula to fulfill one or more of the following functions.

1. Transfer function. To prepare students for advanced standing in other colleges or universities of recognized standing.
2. Terminal cultural function. To offer curricula of a general cultural nature adequate to the needs of students who do not intend to continue their formal education beyond the two years of college.
3. Terminal vocational function. To prepare students to enter the vocations or the semiprofessions requiring more education than is provided on the secondary school level, but which do not require four years of education on the college level. Institutions performing the terminal vocational function shall require in each curriculum a minimum of twenty-four semester hours of technical preparation. Such institutions shall also offer a general cultural background requiring

at least eighteen semester hours consisting of courses in three of the following five fields: communications and literature, social sciences, mathematics and sciences, foreign languages, humanities and fine arts. Certain academic courses taken in connection with a specialty such as commerical law, chemistry, or physiology and anatomy, may be included in the general education requirement.

The minimum semester hour general education requirement for the A.A.S. degree is twenty-one or thirty-three quarter hours. Emphasis is on English communications, social sciences, business mathematics, and science areas. The A.A. requires thirty-six semester hours or fifty-four quarter hours, the A.S. twenty-four semester hours or thirty-six quarter hours.

New Jersey

The department of higher education has the following general education requirement -- no less than forty-five semester hours for an Associate in Arts, thirty for an Associate of Science, and twenty for an Associate of Applied Science. The general education requirement is met by courses in language and literature, the humanities, the social sciences, mathematics and the sciences, or such other courses as may be specified in the college catalog. Although each institution determines what constitutes general education, the department of higher education oversees that these credits fit the category of general education.

New Mexico

The State of New Mexico Board of Educational Finance-Commission on Postsecondary Education reports that no state requirements exist regarding associate degrees. A review of institutional catalogs revealed the following types of degrees offered: Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, Associate in Applied Science, and an associate degree in a wide variety of program areas.

New York

Associate degree programs require two academic years of full-time study or an equivalent that can be shown to accomplish the same goals. Curricula and course work shall be based on an average of thirty credit or semester hours for each year of full-time study.

The various associate degrees offered are distinguished by the minimum amount of liberal arts or general education required; that required core may not be directed toward specialized study. Thus, 75 percent or forty-five hours of the Associate in Arts, 50 percent or thirty hours of the Associate in Science, and 33 percent or twenty hours of the Associate in Applied Science are to be core liberal arts. The A.O.S. (Associate in Occupational Studies) has no liberal arts requirements.

According to the State Education Department, there are no specific requirements for any areas or courses within the total liberal arts hours required for various associate degrees. Each college makes its own determination in the matter.

North Carolina

The North Carolina Community College System, under the State Board of Education, offers programs in technical education, college transfer education, and general education for which the following degrees are awarded: the Associate in Arts degree to graduates of liberal arts programs; the Associate in Science degree to graduates of preprofessional programs; the Associate in General Education degree to graduates of general education programs; the Associate in Fine Arts degree to graduates of fine arts programs; and the Associate of Applied Science degree to graduates of technical education programs.

The A.A., A.S., and the A.F.A. degrees are designed as transfer programs. The general education core for each program offers a basic introduction to liberal arts studies for the student who is interested in a general education emphasizing personal interests without commitment to a specific occupation or profession. This broad exposure provides a common core of experience for all transfer students; some insight into the basic areas of knowledge; and a frame of reference from which the student may make an intelligent decision regarding his professional goals. The general education requirements for the A.A., A.S., and A.F.A. degrees are as follows.

Associate in Arts	Quarter Hours
Communications	9-10
Humanities and fine arts	14-18
Mathematics	6-9

Science	9-12
Social science	12-15
Physical education	3-6
Total	53-70

Associate in Science

Communications	9-10
Humanities and fine arts	6
Mathematics	18-20
Science	24 plus two years of laboratory science
Social science	9
Physical science	3-6
Total	69-75

Associate in Fine Arts

Communications	9-10
Humanities	12
Science or mathematics	6-9
Social science	9
Physical education	3
Total	39-43

The reason for the ranges of general education requirements for the three degrees is related to the variety of existing structural patterns for organizing courses in the system. The rationale is administrative or mechanical rather than philosophical.

In addition to completion of the general education requirements, students are encouraged to choose elective courses that relate to their planned major field of concentration at the upper-division level.

All three transfer-oriented degree programs require a minimum of ninety-six quarter hours for graduation.

The A.A.S. degree program is designed for entrance into employment, not for college transfer. Certain technical courses, however, may be accepted by a four-year college or university, usually on the basis of qualifying examinations. The general education requirement for the A.A.S. is twelve quarter hours in English and six hours in social science. The minimum number of quarter hours required for this degree range from 96 to 128, depending on the curriculum. In special cases, the state board of education may authorize a higher maximum.

The A.G.E. degree program is designed for the student who is basically interested in a general liberal arts education or is not ready to choose a more specific program. Although it is not intended as a transfer program, many courses are found to be acceptable to four-year colleges and universities. There is no general education requirement for the A.G.E., and the minimum number of credits required for graduation is also ninety-six.

Ohio

The two-year colleges in Ohio under the Board of Regents, are authorized to grant four associate degrees. The Associate of Arts for baccalaureate-oriented programs can be offered by all two-year colleges except technical colleges. The Associate of Individualized Study is offered by selected two-year colleges. The Associate of Applied Business is geared to study business technologies, and the Associate of Applied Science is geared to study all other technologies.

For each degree there is a minimum of ninety quarter credits and a maximum of 110 quarter credits, exclusive of physical education. Exceptions may be granted in cases where licensing procedures require additional hours. Each technical degree offering (A.A.B. and A.A.S.) must contain at least twenty-four quarter hours of general education, twenty-four quarter hours of basic education, and forty-eight quarter hours of technical education.

No particular pattern of courses has been imposed to make up the general education components. There appears to be a general trend that institutions require nine hours of communication skills and nine to ten hours of mathematics, but no guidelines in other course areas.

The general education requirement for the Associate of Arts is nine quarter hours in English composition and literature, fifteen hours in the humanities, fifteen hours in the social and behavioral sciences, and fifteen hours in the natural sciences or mathematics, for a total of fifty-four quarter hours.

The A.I.S. degree program is designed to meet the individualized educational needs of students. It does not have a general education requirement.

Oklahoma

The minimal education requirements for the Associate of Arts or the Associate of Science degrees are designed to guarantee an orderly transition for students transferring to upper-division degree programs in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education under the State Regents for Higher Education. The minimum requirements for the Associate of Arts or the Associate of Science degrees at any institution in the system shall include the completion of sixty semester credit hours exclusive of basic required physical education or military science courses with an overall grade point average of 2.0 and the completion of a basic general education core with a minimum of thirty-three semester credit hours comprising the following:

Associate in Arts, Associate in Science	Semester Hours
English grammar and composition	6
American history and government	6
Physical science and life science	6-8
Humanities	5
Mathematics, psychology, foreign languages, fine arts	2
Practical arts	2

No more than 12 hours in any one area will count toward the basic thirty-three semester hours of general education.

The remaining minimum of twenty-seven semester credit hours of academic work shall be applicable to the student's major objective including any prerequisite courses necessary for his/her anticipated

upper-division program. A majority of such student credit hours shall be taken in courses classified as liberal arts and sciences.

The general education core of thirty-three semester credit hours shall be considered minimal, and each institution may, with the approval of the state regents, develop additional lower-division general education requirements for its own students.

Oregon

The Oregon State Department of Education authorizes community colleges to award the Associate in Arts, the Associate in Science, the Associate in Applied Science, and the Associate in General Studies. All but the A.G.S. require completion of eighteen quarter hours in general education, with no particular courses or general pattern prescribed, toward the total of ninety quarter hours required for the degree.

The A.G.S. degree must include the following.

1. Nine hours of communication skills to be chosen from courses in:
   a. writing
   b. reading
   c. speech
   d. listening
2. Nine hours of interdisciplinary studies to be chosen from courses in:
   a. psychology
   b. sociology
   c. anthropology
   d. history
   e. literature
   f. music appreciation
   g. art appreciation
   h. other courses such as philosophy, geology, languages
3. Six hours of science and mathematics.
4. Thirty-six hour diploma made up of four nine-hour certificates.
5. Thirty hours of electives which could include an additional three certificates in ancillary fields of study.

The department of education reasoned that the A.G.S. would appeal to large numbers of part-time students who enroll in day or evening adult education classes either on campus or in communities located throughout the community college district. The degree would recognize acquired self-learned skills that are comparable to skills acquired through formal education in on-campus curriculums. The A.G.S. could be assembled in parts from certificate or diploma programs supplemented with general education classes and advanced courses beyond the diploma level. The degree would not have a residency requirement and would increase the legitimacy of the evening/day adult community education program.

The A.A. and A.S. degrees are designed for transfer purposes, while the purpose of the A.A.S. is for immediate occupational placement.

Pennsylvania

Associate degrees are authorized by the State Board of Education. The Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees are patterned on a college parallel program for transfer. The Associate in Applied Arts or Science degrees requires that at least one-third of the total program be in general education. The Associate in Specialized Business and Associate in Specialized Technology degrees require that up to three-fourths of the course work be in the major area of specialization with the remaining one-fourth in related courses. The content of such related courses is tailored to the area of specialization rather than a general education program.

The primary educational objectives leading to either of the two specialized associate degrees are the specialized training for specific occupational competence and the development of career opportunities.

For private junior colleges, the State Board of Education requires the satisfactory completion of a minimum of sixty semester hours of credit, which shall include a minimum of twenty semester hours of general education. A junior college may offer a broad general education for those not planning to continue their formal education.

The Board does not specify courses or a distribution pattern for the general education requirement for either public or private institutions.

Rhode Island

In the Rhode Island junior college system, the requirements for a degree differ depending on the specialization. An Associate in Arts in liberal arts requires thirty semester hours distributed in fine arts and foreign language, English, mathematics, and science, and social sciences. The remaining sixty credit hours would be made up of elective courses.

An Associate in Arts in Educational and Social Services has a general education requirement as follows.

Associate in Arts in Educational and Social Services	Semester Hours
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Fine arts or language	3
Composition	3
Psychology	12
Human relations	2
Literature	3
Sociology	3
Free elective	3
Total	35

The total credits required in a concentration is twenty-six, with a total degree requirement of sixty-one credits. Although the program is designed primarily for students who will seek employment directly after graduation, most earned credits are transferable.

The Associate in Science degree is applied to programs for terminal students and transfer students who desire to concentrate in science. For the A.S. transfer program, which does not specify a career field, a total of forty-eight general education credits are required as follows.

Associate in Science	Semester Hours
Composition	6
Literature	6
Mathematics	6
Foreign language	6
Two sciences (12 credits each)	24
Free elective	12
Total	60

For A.S. programs with a specified career field, there is a range of general education requirements and total credit requirements. The A.S. in Engineering Technology requires only fifteen general education credits, whereas the A.S. in the Engineering program requires thirty credits. For total degree credits, the A.S. in Business Administration requires sixty credits, whereas the A.S. in Engineering requires ninety-seven credits.

The Associate in Applied Science general education degree requirements range from thirteen credits in machine process to thirty-five credits in Chemical Technician Environmental Technology. Total degree credit requirements range from fifty-four credits in Instrumentation to seventy-seven credits in Radiologic Technology.

South Carolina

The Commission on Higher Education and the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education require that 60 percent of the quarter credit hours required for completion of the Associate in Arts and the Associate in Science consist of courses in the arts and sciences. Arts and science courses are defined as courses independent from association with a specific occupation, which emphasize "theoretical knowledge," over "practical knowledge," which do not chiefly deal with manipulative skills and techniques, and which generally do not have the adjective "applied."

General education courses must be distributed among English, language, and literature; fine arts and philosophy; mathematics; social sciences; and laboratory sciences in a manner which does not cause the general education core to be clearly directed towards specialized study or a specific occupational or professional objective. Among courses that may not be considered in meeting the general education requirement are: physical education; health; ROTC; home economics; agriculture; engineering technologies; education and educational methodology; secretarial; business (including courses specifically designated as business math, business English, etc.); journalism, library, nursing, and commercial art.

In 1975, the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education and the Commission on Higher Education restructured the Associate in Applied Arts degree. The A.A.S. is now divided into a number of occupationally or technically oriented associate degrees. These include

the Associate in Agricultural Technology, Associate in Health Sciences, Associate in Business, Associate in Engineering Technology, Associate in Industrial Technology, Associate in Occupational Technology, and Associate in Public Service Degrees.

These degrees require twenty-four quarter hours in the following general education areas, distributed as follows: communication and humanities, nine hours; social sciences and mathematics, fifteen hours. The remaining required credits are: twenty-four in a major or field of concentration.

All associate degrees require a minimum of ninety-six quarter credits, except those in allied health, engineering and industrial technologies, which require 105 quarter hours. Exceptions to other degree programs are made as needed.

Tennessee

The State University and Community College System of Tennessee, State Board of Regents, is the governing agency for six public universities and ten public community colleges.

The associate degrees offered in the system are: Associate of Arts (A.A.); Associate of Science (A.S.); Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.): Associate of Science in Nursing (A.S.N.); Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene (A.S.D.H.); Associate of Science in Law Enforcement (A.S.L.E.).

A minimum of ninety-six quarter credit hours must be completed for all associate degrees. Career-oriented programs generally exceed this requirement, and some programs require up to 110 quarter hours.

Each student studying for an associate degree in either the A.A. or A.S. transfer programs must complete forty-five quarter hours as follows.

Associate of Arts Associate of Science	Quarter Hours
English composition	9
Humanities	12 (at least 6 in literature)
American history	9 (3 hours may be Tennessee history)
Natural/physical sciences	12 (must include 1 year of science and 1 math course)
Physical education (may be waived in lieu of ROTC, marching band, or military experience)	3 (to be taken as 3 one-hour courses)

Credit hours earned in developmental or remedial courses cannot be used to satisfy the forty-five quarter credit hour requirement. Students studying for an Associate of Arts degree must demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equal to completion of one year of college-level work.

There is no general education requirement for the five other degrees, which are designed for immediate occupational placement.

The State Board of Regents is planning to change its current degree structure to reemphasize the transfer nature of the A.A. and A.S. degrees. All career-oriented programs will no longer be able to apply the A.S. designation (such as the Associate of Science in Nursing), and all program areas or majors will also be omitted. These programs will use the A.A.S. designation.

Texas

According to the Texas College and University System-Community College Program, individual colleges determine which associate degrees to offer. The Associate in Arts and Associate in Applied Science are the most frequently offered degrees; however, the following are offered by one or more colleges: Associate in Applied Arts and Sciences; Associate in Business; Associate in Engineering Science; Associate in General Education; Associate in Science; Associate in Science in Technology; Associate in Applied Arts; Associate in Fine Arts; Associate in Arts in Business; Associate in Mortuary Science.

The state does require that six semester hours in U.S. history and six semester hours in U.S. government be included in any degree program.

Utah

The Utah System of Higher Education offers the following associate degrees: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied Science. The Associate of Arts and the Associate of Science degrees generally include forty-five to fifty-five quarter hours in general education and forty-one to forty-eight quarter hours in a specific discipline or related subject area. A.A. and A.S. degrees are considered to be transfer oriented. The Associate of Applied Science degree usually specifies that approximately 25 percent (twenty-four quarter hours) of the courses for the degree be in general education, and the remaining 75 percent (seventy-two quarter hours) be in a specific discipline or related subject area. The A.A.S. is generally considered to be an entry-level program.

Each institution, with student input, is responsible for determining the general education component for each degree.

Virginia

The Virginia Department of Community Colleges authorizes the Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, and the Associate in Applied Science degrees. Total minimum credits is ninety-seven quarter credit hours of each degree. Although there is no maximum number of credits that may be earned, no curricula may exceed eighteen credits in any quarter.

The A.A. and A.S. degrees are designed as transfer programs, while the A.A.S. degree is occupationally oriented. Each degree program includes majors, some of which are further divided into appropriate specializations. As an example, there is an A.A.S. degree program with a major in commerical art and a specialization in interior design.

The general education requirements for each degree follows.

Associate in Arts	Quarter Hours
English	9
Health, physical education, or recreation	3-6
History	9
Humanities	9
Natural sciences	12-15
Orientation	1
Social sciences	9
Total	52-58

Associate of Sciences	
English	9
Health, physical education, or recreation	3-6

History	3-9
Humanities	3
Orientation	1
Social sciences	9
Total	28-37

Associate of Applied Science

English	9
Health, physical education, or recreation	3
Orientation	1
Social sciences	9
Total	22

Washington

Each local community college board has established its own degrees and degree requirements. Although the State Board for Community College Education could impose its authority to establish standard terms and requirements for degrees, it has not chosen to do so in order to preserve as much local autonomy as possible.

There are generally three degrees offered by each of the colleges: Associate in Arts degree, which is academic in nature and designed for transfer to a four-year institution; Associate in Applied Arts degree centered in the completion of specific vocational preparatory skills; and general development degree in which there are no specific requirements and the person has no desire to transfer or to enter a vocational field. Generally, each degree requires a minimum of ninety quarter hours of credit.

Although no state general education requirements exist, most institutions adhere to guidelines developed for the Associate of Arts degree by the Inter College Articulation Commission. The general education guidelines is as follows. Approximately two-thirds (a minimum of fifty quarter hours) of the required credits for this degree should be completed in general education (also called general university requirements, distribution requirements, breadth requirements, etc.) with a reasonable distribution among communication skills, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences.

West Virginia

The Board of Regents imposes no general requirements for two-year degrees offered by universities, four-year institutions, and community colleges. These institutions offer the Associate in Arts, the Associate in Science, and the Associate in Applied Arts. Although there is some variation, the A.A. is the liberal arts, transfer-oriented degree; the A.A.S. is for occupational programs; and the A.S., not as sharply defined, is considered to be terminal in nature.

The A.A. degree demands completion of the first two years of general studies required of four-year liberal arts degrees. Only one of the twelve institutions requires general education credits in the other degrees offered. That institution, a four-year college, requires twelve unspecified hours in general education. The minimum number of hours required for completion ranges from sixty to seventy-six with more hours usually required in the various technology programs.

In recent years, there has been more attention from the state central office to the definition of degrees and more awareness on the part of institutions of the need for precise and consistent degree designations. This had led to a shift away from the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science to the Associate in Applied Science.

Wisconsin

The Board of Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education authorizes four associate degrees, each with its own specific emphasis.

Associate in Applied Arts: A degree conferred on students who complete an approved occupational program at the technical level in the application of skills and understandings according to aesthetic and/or behavioral principles to the design and performance of useful objects or activities (or to the design and construction of useful objects).

Associate in Applied Science: A degree conferred on students who complete an approved occupational program at the technical level in the application of scientific laws and knowledge to practical ends.

Based on these definitions and the mission of the VTAE system, the Associate of Arts degree and the Associate of Science degree as defined here would be offered in the VTAE districts that have authority from the state board to offer college parallel programs.

Associate in Arts: A degree conferred on students who complete an approved college parallel program in the liberal or fine arts.

Associate in Science: A degree conferred on students who complete an approved program at the technical level dealing with accumulated and accepted knowledge that has been systematized and formulated with reference to the discovery of general truths or the operation of general laws.

Total number of credits required for each degree is sixty-three or sixty-four, depending on the curriculum.

Each degree has a fifteen semester-hour general education requirement. Of these, six hours must be in communication skills and nine in social and behavioral sciences, with a minimum of three credits in each of those areas. Each school's general and technical education staff determines the content within the fifteen hours with the cooperation of the local or state (equivalent) advisory committee and consultant representing the State Board of Vocational, Technical, and Adult Education.

Associate degrees are also awarded at the four-year universities of the University of Wisconsin System. However, as appendix 2 shows, there is no standard general education requirement. Also, as the number of graduates indicates, most universities outside the center system have not emphasized the associate degrees.

An ad hoc associate degree study group has proposed a systemwide approach to the associate degree, which is under consideration by the board of regents. The group is recommending implementation of a new degree program -- the Associate of Liberal Studies. It would contain a core curriculum of forty semester credits of coursework balanced among the social sciences, the natural or physical sciences, the humanities and the arts, and mathematical and communication skills. A specific curriculum model developed by the study group follows.

Model Core Curriculum (to total 40 credits):

1. At least six credits of nonremedial, college-level work in communications skills, at least three credits of which must be in English composition.

2. At least six credits of nonremedial, college-level mathematics (and/or computer science or statistics), or at least six credits of a language other than English.

In both cases, campus policies as applied to baccalaureate candidates concerning test-out exemptions, the granting of retroactive credit, and the interpretation of "nonremedial" may be used in determining the individual campus (or university unit) requirements.

3. At least eight credits in natural and/or physical sciences, plus nine or more credits in social sciences, plus nine or more credits in in humanities and/or the arts, all in addition to the requirements in A and B.

In meeting the social sciences, the humanities, and the art requirement, not all of the nine required credits may be taken in a single field of study. (Categorization of courses as "humanities," "social sciences," or "arts" would be expected to correspond to normal individual campus practice.) In regard to the natural and physical sciences, it is strongly recommended that laboratory experience form at least part of the requirement.

Note: In the event that this model core curriculum seems not sufficiently compatible with a university's general curricular requirements, the core curriculum may be modified, as long as it contains forty credits of liberal studies coursework somewhat equally distributed among the social sciences, the natural and physical sciences, the humanities and the arts, and mathematical and communications skills.

Wyoming

The Community College Commission has no general education requirement for the six degrees offered throughout the state. Those degrees are: Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Business, Associate of Occupational Education and the Associate of Technical Education.

APPENDIX I

Other Degrees Offered

A.A.B.	Associate in Applied Business
A.A.T	Associate in Agricultural Technology
A.A.A.S.	Associate in Applied Arts & Sciences
A.A.S.A.	Associate of Applied Science in Accounting
A.B.	Associate in Business
A.B.S.	Associate in Business Studies
A.C.	Associate in Commerce
A.D.	Associate Degree
A.D.N.	Associate Degree in Nursing
A.E.S.	Associate in Engineering Science
A.E.T.	Associate in Engineering Technology
A.F.A.	Associate in Fine Arts
A.G.E.	Associate in General Education
A.G.S.	Associate in General Studies
A.H.S.	Associate in Health Sciences
A.I.S.	Associate in Individualized Study
A.I.T.	Associate in Industrial Technology
A.L.A.	Associate in Liberal Arts

Other Degrees Offered (continued)

A.L.S.	Associate in Liberal Studies
A.M.S.	Associate in Mortuary Science
A.N.	Associate in Nursing
A.O.E.	Associate of Occupational Education
A.O.T.	Associate of Occupational Technology
A.P.S.	Associate in Public Service
A.S.B.	Associate in Specialized Business
A.S.D.H.	Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene
A.S.L.E.	Associate of Science in Law Enforcement
A.S.N.	Associate of Science in Nursing
A.S.T.	Associate in Service Technology
A.S.T.	Associate in Specialized Technology
A.T.	Associate in Technology
A.T.E.	Associate of Technical Education
A.T.S.	Associate in Technical Studies

APPENDIX II

The Associate Degree in the University of Wisconsin System:

Requirements and Numbers Granted for the Period 1971-76

Campus	Total Credits	English Credits	Foreign Language Credits	Math Credits	Natural Science Credits	Social Science Credits	Humanities Credits	Number of Degrees Granted
Center System								1,947
Arts	60	3		3	5	9*	9*	
Science	60	3		3	11	6*	6*	
Eau Claire	64	6			6	6	6	39
Green Bay	62	6		6	6	6	6	0**
		Plus a minimun of 12 credits in one area of emphasis						
LaCrosse	64	6+++		← 12 →		12	9	12
Oshkosh	64	6		2++	8	9	9	35
Platteville	64	6+++		← 12 →		← 12 →		6

River Falls[+]	96	9[+++]			9	9	15	10
A minimum of 48 credits must be in Basic Studies								
Stevens Point	62	6	8 or 4		6		12	90
Superior[+]								25
Arts	96	12	21[++]	6	8	9	18	
Science	96	12		6	8	9	18	
Whitewater								28
Arts	60	8	16[++]	3	9	18		
Science	60	8		6	9	18		
TOTAL NUMBER OF DEGREES GRANTED								2,192

Madison	No Associate Degree offered, but 19 two-year certificates awarded
Milwaukee	No Associate Degree offered, but 24 two-year certificates awarded
Parkside	No Associate Degree offered
Stout	No Associate Degree offered

* At least two different disciplines
** Program just implemented
[+] Quarter hours
[++] Can be replaced in whole or in part by high school
[+++] Speech also required

THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION, founded in 1918 and composed of institutions of higher education and national and regional education associations, is the nation's major coordinating body for postsecondary education. Through voluntary and cooperative action, the Council provides comprehemsive leadership for improving educational standards, policies, and procedures.